Development of flying ships by IIT, Powai

2879. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IIT, Powai has developed flying ships to ferry passengers in the Himalayas and in the North-East; and

(b) if so, by when the design would be developed for greater usage in remote places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) IIT, Powai has been sanctioned the first phase of a project for developing a few prototype airships as an alternative means of transportation for passengers as well as cargo for use in various terrains, especially the mountain regions. The project is to be implemented in three phases. The first phase is required to study and evaluate different design options, develop and freeze design parameters and identify potential industry partners within a period of six months.

Indo-Brazil MoU on Science and Technology

2880. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Science and Technology, during his recent visit to Brazil, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Science and Technology;

(b) if so, what are the details of the MoU;

(c) whether a proposal was also made during the visit to set up an Indo-Brazil Science Council to evaluate the programme of cooperation; and

(d) if so, by when this Science Council would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), provision has been made on Cooperation in Science and Technology between India and Brazil in subject areas such as Biotechnology for Agriculture and Human Health, Bio-informatics, Chemistry, Climate Research, Marine Science, New Materials, Mathematics, Physics, Renewable Energies, Space and Industry-Research Partnerships. The programme envisages coordination by a Joint Management Board.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Consultation process have been initiated between India and Brazil for the early establishment of the proposed Council.

Encouraging FDI in Bio-Technology

2881. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange that the country has earned through export of biotech products during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the market size of biotech products is growing very rapidly in the world; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Ministry to encourage FDI in the field of bio-technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Sir, India is exporting products developed by traditional and new biotechnology. The exported products include diagnostics, human and veterinary vaccines, toxins and bacterial products, blood products, anti-biotics, tissue culture plantlets, enzymes medicinal plant products, mushrooms, cut flowers etc. During last three years about Rs. 1074.62